



PRESS RELEASE

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Commission Honors Senator Jack Scott

SACRAMENTO – The Commission on Teacher Credentialing paid tribute to the legislative career of Senator Jack Scott at its November 6, 2008 meeting. Senator Scott, termed out of the Legislature, will carry on his commitment to education as the Chancellor for the California Community Colleges.

Dr. P. David Pearson, Chair of the Commission, noted the profound impact that Senator Scott has had on education policy during his tenure in the Legislature, stating, “Senator Scott has been the preeminent leader when it comes to educational policy. He built a broad policy architecture aimed at improving opportunities for California’s students. We are especially grateful for his important work in teacher education.”

Members of the Commission lauded Senator Scott’s dedication to ensuring teacher quality and pointed out several policy areas in which the Senator authored legislation, including:

- Reducing unnecessary barriers and building flexible routes to teaching careers
- Supporting paraprofessionals (teacher’s aides) as they complete degrees and earn teaching credentials
- Ensuring that beginning teachers and interns have adequate and appropriate preparation, support and mentoring
- Updating the qualifications of Career Technical Education teachers and Special Education teachers
- Protecting the safety of school children
- Making sure that qualified teachers from other states can bring their skills and expertise to California’s students
- Paving the way for a teacher data system

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In turn, Senator Scott thanked the Commission and outlined many of the recent policy and organizational accomplishments of the agency, including online applications, a new data-driven credential program accreditation system, and a balanced budget with credential fees actually lower than ten years ago.

Dr. Pearson presented Senator Scott with a plaque from the Commission honoring his esteemed career as an education policy leader. Commission members wished the Senator well in his new role as Community College Chancellor and remarked that he was coming full circle to his days as a community college president.

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